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Annual Review of Phases II and III of the Virginia Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program, Review of New Drugs, Dispensing Fee for Generic Drugs, and PDL Quicklist - Effective July 1, 2005

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the annual review of Phases II and III of Virginia Medicaid's Preferred Drug List (PDL) Program effective July 1, 2005. As you are aware, the PDL is a list of preferred drugs by therapeutic class for which the Medicaid program will allow payment without requiring Prior Authorization (PA). In the designated classes, drug products classified as non-preferred will be subject to PA. Because there are provisions for a 72- hour supply of necessary medications, this initiative will not cause an individual to be without an appropriate drug therapy.

The PDL is effective for the Medicaid, MEDALLION, and FAMIS Plus fee-for-service populations. The PDL **does not** apply to patients enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) or FAMIS enrollees. DMAS implemented the PDL program to provide clinically effective and safe drugs to its clients at the best available price. Your continued assistance with this program is critical to its success.

The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee recently conducted its annual review of 18 therapeutic drug classes in Phases II and III, along with some new drugs in previously reviewed drug classes, and minimal changes were made. An updated list of the preferred drugs within each of the classes is attached with this memo.

Based on this review, the additions and changes to the PDL are as follows:



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ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO PREFERRED STATUS

- **Fosamax[®] and Fosamax[®] Solution** (Bisphosphonates for Osteoporosis)
- **Ciprofloxacin** (Second Generation Quinolones)
- **Metoprolol HCT** (Beta Blocker)
- **Felodipine** (Calcium Channel Blockers)
- **Fosamax[®] plus D** (Bisphosphonates for Osteoporosis)

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO NON-PREFERRED STATUS

- **Cipro and Cipro XR** (Second Generation Quinolones)
- **Mobic[®]** (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs - NSAID)
- **Clarinet[®] Syrup and Clarinet[®] Redi-tab** (Second Generation Antihistamines)
- **Quinapril** (Ace Inhibitors)
- **Somnote[®]** (Sedative Hypnotic Non-Barbiturates)
- **Itraconazole** (Onychomycosis Antifungals)
- **Lunesta[®]** (Sedative Hypnotics)
- **Boniva[®]** (Bisphosphonates for Osteoporosis)
- **Prevacid NapraPAC[®]** (Analgesic- NSAIDs)

To access the complete list of pharmaceutical products included on the Virginia PDL, please visit <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or <http://virginia.fhsc.com>.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION (PA) PROCESS

A message indicating that a drug requires a PA will be displayed at Point of Sale (POS) when a Non-Preferred drug is dispensed. Pharmacists should contact the patient's provider requesting them to initiate the PA process. Prescribers can initiate PA requests by letter, by faxing the attached form to 800-932-6651, or by contacting the First Health Services Clinical Call Center at **800-932-6648** (available 24 hours a day, seven days a week). Faxed and mailed PA requests will



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street
Suite 1300
Richmond, VA 23219

<https://dmas.virginia.gov>

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be responded to within 24 hours of receipt. PA requests can be mailed to:

First Health Services
Corporation 4300 Cox
Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

ATTN: MAP Department/VA Medicaid

Fax: 800-932-6651

Phone: 800-932-6648

A copy of the PA form is attached and is also available at <http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pharm-home.htm> or at <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The PDL criteria for PA purposes are also available on

both websites. Additional information and Provider Manual updates will be posted as necessary. Comments regarding this program may be emailed to the P&T Committee at pdlinput@dmas.virginia.gov.

PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL) - 72-HOUR-SUPPLY PROCESSING POLICY

The PDL Program provides a process where the pharmacist may dispense a 72-hour supply of a Non-Preferred, prescribed medication if the physician is not available to consult with the pharmacist (after hours, on weekends, or during holidays), AND the pharmacist, in his professional judgment consistent with current standards of practice, feels that the patient's health would be compromised without the benefit of the drug. The 72-hour supply will require a phone call by the pharmacy provider to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at **800-932-6648** for processing.



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The patient will be charged a co-payment applicable for this 72-hour supply (partial fill). However, a co-payment will not be charged for the completion fill. The prescription must be processed as a "partial" and "completion" fill.

For unit-of-use drugs (i.e. inhalers, drops, etc.), the entire unit should be dispensed and appropriate action taken to prevent similar situations in the future.

PREFERRED DRUG LIST (PDL) - 72-HOUR-SUPPLY DISPENSING FEE PROCESS

Pharmacy providers are entitled to an additional \$3.75 (brand name drugs) or \$4.00 (generic drugs) dispensing fee when filling the completion of a 72-hour-supply prescription for a Non- Preferred drug. To receive the additional dispensing fee, the pharmacist must submit the 72-hour supply as a partial fill and, when submitting the claim for the completion fill, enter "03" in the "Level of Service" (data element 418-DI) field. The additional dispensing fee is ONLY available (one time per prescription) to the pharmacist after dispensing the completion fill of a Non- Preferred drug when a partial (72-hour supply) prescription was previously filled.

Any questions regarding the PDL process can be referred to First Health Services Corporation (FHSC) at **800-932-6648**.

PERSONAL DIGITAL ASSISTANT (PDA) DOWNLOAD FOR PDL QUICKLIST

There are two ways to download the PDL list for PDA users. On the DMAS website (www.dmas.virginia.gov), there is a link that enables providers to download the PDL Quicklist to their PDAs. To access this link, please click on "Pharmacy," then "Pharmacy Initiatives," then "PDL Quicklist PDA Format." This page will have complete directions for the download and HotSync operations. If you are an ePocrates® user, you may also access Virginia Medicaid's PDL through the ePocrates® formulary link at www.epocrates.com. ePocrates® is a leading drug information software for handheld computers (PDAs) and desktop computers. A large number of healthcare providers use this software in their daily practice. For



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more information and product registration, please visit their website at www.epocrates.com.

To download the Virginia Medicaid PDL to your PDA, please follow these steps:

1. Ensure that you have a version of ePocrates Rx® installed on your PDA.
2. Connect to the Internet and go to www.epocrates.com.
3. Click the "Add Formularies" link at the top of the page.
4. Log in to the website using your user name and password.
5. Select "Virginia" from the "Select State" menu.
6. Select "Virginia Medicaid-PDL" under "Available Formularies."
7. Click on "Add to My List" and then click on "Done."
8. Auto Update your PDA to install the "Virginia Medicaid-PDL" to your PDA.

DISPENSING FEE FOR GENERIC DRUGS

As required by the *2004 Appropriations Act*, effective July 1, 2005, the dispensing fee for generic drug products will be \$4.00. This increase from the current dispensing fee (\$3.75) will be applied to all pharmacy claims with dates of service on or after July 1, 2005. The dispensing fee for brand name drugs will remain the same (\$3.75). Providers may contact the DMAS HELPLINE with questions regarding this change in dispensing fee at 1-804-786-6273 (Richmond area and out-of-state long distance) or 1-800-552-8627 (all other areas and in-state, toll-free long distance).

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option to access information regarding Medicaid and FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification information. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The



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MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 800-884-9730 or 800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov (***please note the new DMAS website address***). Refer to the Provider Column to find Medicaid and SLH Provider Manuals or click on "Medicaid Memos to Providers" to view Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order these by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program

information with providers. Covered topics will include upcoming changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-provider_newletter.asp.

Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.